

Great Blue Heron.—Fish in diet, 55%. J. Josselyn in his 'Two Voyages to New England' states that the finest game the colonists found was the Great Blue Heron. I have tried it and in flavor it is much like the Scoters, but the meat is much finer grained and very rich in fat. (Jones.) Adult is rather tough but of very fine flavor, a hearty meat more like beef than that of a bird. Juvenile, tender and more delicate. I regard this bird as the finest wild bird I have ever eaten under camp conditions. Tried it fried, broiled, and stewed. (Taverner.) Have found the young bird in the first autumn delicious eating. (Witmer Stone.)

Green Heron. Fish in diet, 40%. Very good, a little more delicate than the Night Heron. (Taverner.)

Black-crowned Night Heron.—Fish in diet, 40%. Very good, not quite as hearty as the Great Blue Heron. (Taverner.)

Mr. Taverner also reports that at Perce in 1914 and 1915 he tested Puffins, Murres and Razor-billed Auks, birds which make fish about 60% of their diet, and found all of them delicious.

In considering evidence on this subject it is necessary to distinguish clearly between a true fishy taste and the much more common merely strong or rank flavor. They are commonly confused. It has been suggested that fishy flavor may be due to a diet of mollusks rather than of fish, but in the writer's opinion this theory will no more bear searching analysis than the other. For instance Scoters and Eiders, almost exclusive mollusk feeders along the New England coast, are not fishy in flavor, and may easily be made into good dishes as the writer knows from experience. Robin Snipe collected on Wallops Island, Virginia, in spring and found to be feeding exclusively on small mussels, were not at all fishy, in fact were as good as any of the other shorebirds. In considering the effect of food upon flavor it is necessary also to recognize a certain specificity in flavor. For instance, in the corn belt hogs and cattle are kept under identical conditions and have with only minor exceptions the same foods; yet there is no chance of confusing the pork and beef they yield. Somewhat the same case is that of guinea fowl and chickens reared upon the same diet, but in flavor very easy to distinguish.

The writer does not wish to be understood to believe that food does not influence flavor. Remarks by correspondents indicate that they got an impression to this effect from the previous contribution, just what an effort was made to avoid. The Spruce Grouse and the Sage Hen, for instance, are two striking examples among American birds of food controlling flavor. The points chiefly emphasized are that fish-eating does not necessarily cause fishy flavor, and that the latter does exist in individual birds that in all probability have not acquired it by eating fish. In the light of the evidence the writer holds neither of these points is subject to dispute.—
W. L. McATEE.

Egrets (*Herodias egretta*) in Northern New Jersey.—On August 4, 1918, two Egrets (*Herodias egretta*) were seen by the writer at a small

artificial lake near Branchville, New Jersey. These, together with the three that stayed several weeks during late summer and early autumn of 1916 in the vicinity of Van Cortlandt Park, New York City (Chubb, S. H., Auk, Oct., 1916, p. 433), one of which returned in the summer of 1917 to the same place (Rogers, Charles H., Bird-Lore, Sept.-Oct., 1917, p. 276), the one reported from Setauket, L. I., in the summer of 1916 (Nichols, Murphy, and Griseom, Auk, Oct., 1917, p. 440), and other recent records, would seem to indicate that the laws for the protection of this beautiful bird are bearing fruit.—G. CLYDE FISHER, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

Brooding Habit of the American Coot.—Two nests of the American Coot (*Fulica americana*) were hatched in the North American waterfowl lake in the National Zoological Park during the summer of 1918, and one curious habit of the bird, which I do not recall having seen noted, attracted my attention. Until the young birds are about twenty days old, almost as large as small quails, and have lost the reddish markings on the head, they return to the nest each evening and are brooded by a parent bird, presumably the female. I had never supposed before that these birds returned to the nest once the young had left it, almost immediately after they were hatched. In one case the nest was placed on the dry ground, under the overhanging branches of a low tree, about two feet from the bank, and in an excellent position for observation from the shore. I repeatedly saw the Coots between sundown and dark, one parent on the nest, the young under her wings or nestling about her after the manner of the domestic fowl. The other parent at these times patrolled the nearby shore and savagely attacked any ducks that wandered into the immediate vicinity.—N. HOLLISTER, *Washington, D. C.*

Stilt Sandpiper (*Micropalama himantopus*) in Wyoming.—The occurrence of the Stilt Sandpiper (*Micropalama himantopus*) in Wyoming seems to be rare enough to render it advisable to place on record the existence of four specimens even if the records are decidedly old. In recently working over the series of this species contained in the collection of the United States National Museum, I found that four specimens, all males, were secured at Fort Laramie, Laramie County, Wyoming, May 15, 1875, by Dr. J. S. Newberry. Of these, Number 69918 was sent to Mr. E. E. T. Seton. The existence of these birds has evidently been unknown to Wyoming ornithologists as neither Knight (*Birds of Wyoming*, 1902, Bull. 55, Univ. of Wyoming, p. 47) nor Grave and Walker (*Birds of Wyoming*, 1913, Univ. of Wyoming, p. 35) make any reference to them.—B. H. SWALES, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

Notes on Migratory *Anatinæ* and *Limicolæ* from Western New York.—Realizing that most ornithologists are interested in obtaining